

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 161050Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9923
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CH UR AL
SUBJECT: PRAVDA REPLAYS ALBANIAN ATTACK ON CHINA

REF: PEKING 1417

1. PRAVDA OF JULY 16 CARRIES A LENGTHY TASS ARTICLE
REPLAYING ALBANIAN CRITICISMS OF CHINESE POSITION ON
"THREE WORLDS" (REFTEL). THOROUGH SUMMARY OF ZERI I
POPULIT'S ARTICLE LEAVES NO DOUBT OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF
THE ATTACK ON PEKING AND ENABLES TASS TO COMMENT THAT "IT
IS NOT SURPRISING" THAT EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE LONG SUPPORTED
PEKING NOW FEEL THE NEED TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM
SUCH SILLINESS. TASS CONCLUDES BY POINTING OUT THAT ZERI
I POPULIT ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINED USUAL ALBANIAN
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"FABRICATIONS" CONCERNING POLICY OF USSR AND OTHER
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: THE OPPORTUNITY TO HIT AT PEKING WAS
ONE THAT COULD NOT BE MISSED AND THE ZERI I POPULIT
ARTICLE WELL SERVES MOSCOW'S LONG-HELD ARGUMENT
THAT CHINA IS ISOLATING ITSELF. THE USSR WOULD

LIKE TO REPAIR ITS TIES WITH ALBANIA, BUT IT IS
UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE SOVIETS JUDGE THE TIME TO BE
PROPITIOUS. THE PUBLICATION OF THE TASS ITEM
SIGNALS AT THE LEAST THAT MOSCOW RECOGNIZES AND
APPLAUDS CHANGES IN TIRANA'S OUTLOOK VIS A VIS
PEKING. WE ASSUME THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING
PRIVATE MOVES THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS TO TEST ALBANIAN RECEPTIVITY
TO CLOSER RELATIONS. FINALLY, ALBANIA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WHEN TITO VISITS
MOSCOW NEXT MONTH.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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